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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"It is not yet time for congratulating the Ministers. The hon. Member will have ample opportunity to do it. He will for the time confine himself to the supplementary question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I thought I might do it now, Sir. Nevertheless, may I ask the hon. Minister why on the report of the Excise Committee which examined several witnesses and collected all expert opinions and made a definite proposal which the then Government accepted—I speak subject to correction—my hon. Friend below the gangway will be able to correct me (referring to Sir A. P. Patro)—why the hon. the Minister starts again the whole machinery of circumlocation and sends it back to the Collector and the Excise Commissioner?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"There was no unanimity of opinion in the committee that reported and so, I thought it just as well to get the opinion of the Commissioner and the Collectors on the matter as they were not the persons that were responsible for the passing of the Government Order."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask whether the recommendations were sent to the Commissioner and the Collectors for their opinion because the hon. Minister considered them to be revolutionary or because he considered them to be too modest?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I cannot decide it till I get the reports. It may be that I considered the proposals wanting as I may extend the powers of the committee proposed in the Government Order. I cannot decide it till I get the reports."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask whether the hon. Minister has set any time-limit to the reports being sent, or whether they will take their own time which may mean eternity?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I shall see that the reports are received as soon as possible."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister for Excise whether he can have unanimity at any time on a matter of this kind involving a large amount of finances for the Government and tell him that if he should wait for unanimity he should wait till Domesday?"

Medical Administration

Establishment of a hospital at Kannamangalam.

* 200 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government intend to establish a hospital at Kannamangalam town or at least a rural dispensary in Kannamangalam?

A.—Neither course is proposed for the present

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—"May I know why neither course is proposed to be adopted?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"We found, on an examination of the finances of the taluk board, that they were not in a flourishing condition and one of the conditions laid down in

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starting rural dispensaries is that the taluk board should be in a position to finance the venture so far as the medicines are concerned. We are therefore asking the taluk board to put their finances in order."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know, Sir, what is the hon. the Minister's idea of ' for the present ' ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" It means till the taluk board sends a satisfactory reply."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it the Taluk Board of Polur, Sir ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" No, Sir. It is the Vellore Taluk Board."

Mr. D. THOMAS :—" Has there been any inspection of rural hospitals up till now ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I should like to have notice."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" I heard the hon. Minister say : till the receipt of a reply from the taluk board. May I know what is the nature of the reply which he expects from the taluk board ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I have already explained it, Sir."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" May I take it, Sir, that it is as to the financial aspect of the taluk board ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" In that case, if unfortunately the financial aspect of the taluk board does not prove satisfactory, is it the intention of the Government not to give any dispensary for the poor people in that locality ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" It does not follow, Sir."

Rural dispensaries in the Presidency.

* 201 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of rural dispensaries started in the Presidency during 1925-26 and 1926-27 ;

(b) what defects, if any, exist in the working of the system ; and

(c) whether the question of allowing local bodies to open ayurvedic dispensaries under the new " Rural Medical Scheme " has been considered and decided ?

A.—(a) The number of dispensaries actually opened under the scheme in the years 1925-26 and 1926-27 is 107 and 46 respectively.

(b) So far no defects have been specifically brought to the notice of the Government. The District Medical Officers are being instructed to inspect these dispensaries periodically and to submit reports of their inspections to the Surgeon-General.